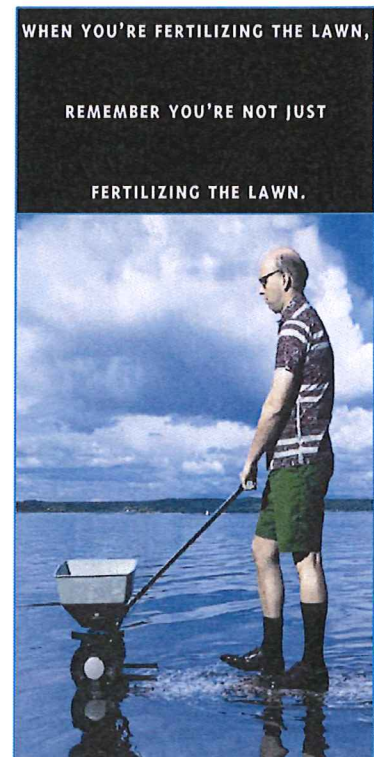




Fertilizers and Stormwater Management in your Yard

Applying fertilizers to our lawns can help your turf grass grow, but when applied in excessive amounts, they can pollute stormwater which harms aquatic ecosystems. Fertilizers are made of nutrients, such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus (*nitrogen is water-soluble and therefore can flow through groundwater and surface runoff*). When these nutrients are carried by stormwater into the nearest drain or ditch, they can cause algae blooms in detention ponds. An abundance of algae reduces the oxygen in water and can lead to fish kills. All residents can help protect our stormwater and prevent algae blooms by implementing the following:

- ✿ Utilize slow-release organic fertilizers which are less likely to enter stormwater.
- ✿ Conduct a soil test to determine the need for fertilizer applications.
- ✿ Do not apply fertilizer on a windy day or immediately before a heavy rain.
- ✿ Conduct a soil test to determine the needs for fertilizer applications.
- ✿ Apply fertilizer at or below those rates recommended on the packaging.
- ✿ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application.
- ✿ Apply fertilizers evenly over the desired area.
- ✿ Sweep up and remove fertilizer spilled on paved surfaces.
- ✿ Only hire reputable lawn care companies certified by the Indiana Office of State Chemist.
- ✿ Use efficient watering practices (drip-type or sprinkler systems) reduce pollutant runoff from wasted water.
- ✿ Consider reducing turf area by replacing with ground cover, native plants and shrubs.
- ✿ Utilize a mulch blade on mower to add natural organic (grass & leaves) material to lawn.
- ✿ Properly dispose of all excess fertilizer and containers.



Implementing these smart fertilizing tips will not only help protect our stormwater, but will also save time and money! Remember to use water and fertilizers only when necessary. Also, utilizing compost material instead of store-bought fertilizers can increase savings as well as benefit the environment.